

recovery resources, primarily through community block grant funding.

Louisiana's Governor issued a formal request to the Biden administration in January of this year. My office has supported our Governor's request in every way through every channel. We worked for months to build support in Congress for long-term recovery resources, and our efforts to build that coalition has been successful.

While that support exists broadly, the Biden administration must first respond to our Governor's official request for supplemental disaster funding. President Biden must formally request specific supplemental disaster relief from Congress. Only then can our brotherhood of support take action here in the House of Representatives. That is the way it works. We have communicated these extreme needs directly to the Biden administration and House leadership.

Additionally, the State must do more to ensure private insurance companies are treating Louisiana citizens fairly. This has been a significant issue that has frustrated Louisiana citizens and hindered our recovery efforts.

I will not stop fighting for the citizens of south Louisiana, and I ask that my colleagues here in this body stand with us. I ask that our President stand with the people of Louisiana. We are one Nation. As a Republic of sovereign States, we have never failed to come to each other's rescue in the wake of natural disaster. Now is one of those moments.

This is a time when Americans must stand together as one. Every day, we are working to help Louisiana stand back up.

VIRGIN ISLANDS ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, the Virgin Islands of the United States sits at the most southern, most easterly point of the United States. Because of this geographic position and its proximity to South America and its almost sentry lighthouse position to the rest of the Caribbean, it has been fought over; exploited by many nations; owned by seven; and used as a base by pirates, privateers, rum and drug runners, and even great corporations.

Despite so much potential, the benefits of our location, climate, our deep ports—one of the deepest in the Caribbean, our fertile soil—the people of the Virgin Islands have not received equitable return on investment and have instead been the spoils of others.

Our people continue to work to create economic benefits for our homes, jobs, skills, revenue, financial independence. Our journey in oil refining is one such chapter in that search.

In the 1960s, the Virgin Islands began refining oil. Our island of St. Croix be-

came the second-largest petroleum refinery in America. In 2012, the refinery closed, exacerbating the shocks of the Great Recession, leading to unemployment rates of 18 percent. Our government made the decision to work to bring the refinery back and, after several years, the terminal and refinery reopened.

In the last few weeks, my office has been in contact with the EPA regarding air emissions incidents, odors, and emissions around the vicinity of the refinery, which threaten the health of residents and our environment.

On May 14, the EPA ordered Limetree Bay, the owners of the terminal and refinery, to pause all operations on the St. Croix refinery due to multiple improperly conducted operations that present an imminent risk to public health. Limetree Bay is in a community that is disproportionately affected by environmental burdens, and recent incidents have raised significant environmental justice concerns.

My office has continued to discuss with the EPA regarding the shutdown of the refinery, which, when fully operational, contributes tremendously to the Virgin Islands' economy. I have also been in contact with the owners of the refinery, as well as the Virgin Islands local government, and I will share with you all, with this Congress, what we can do to rectify the issue.

But part of my concern and one of the reasons I came to Congress was to create mechanisms and funding, incentives so that communities like the Virgin Islands, places long-neglected, can have the tools, funding, incentives, stable schools, healthcare, to create diverse sustainable industry.

As I have said in the past, and continue to reiterate, the current problems in my community further demonstrate the need for so many communities like it to have a diversified economy. This would provide flexibility. A diversified economy creates an economic health in a community, not tied to a single industry or market sector. It also creates and supports innovation.

Not only do companies support one another financially, but they engender an ecosystem of new ideas and product generation. I recognize that funding from the American Rescue Plan should not only be used by the Virgin Island's government to undergird our most vulnerable citizens, our children, mentally ill, our seniors; it should be used to support creation of clean resilient jobs.

I and other Democrats recognize that we must rebuild our communities and our economy better than before through the American Jobs Plan. Now is the time to think boldly with a once-in-a-century investment to create millions of good-paying jobs to ensure America can outcompete any other country in the world.

The President has promised to deliver clean drinking water, a renewed electric grid, high-speed broadband; build, preserve, retrofit more than 2

million homes and commercial buildings; modernize our Nation's schools and childcare facilities; upgrade veterans' hospitals and Federal buildings.

The President's plan includes \$20 billion for new programs that will reconnect neighborhoods like the Virgin Islands, cut off by historic investments, and ensure new projects increase opportunity, advance racial equity and environmental justice, promote affordable access, safeguard critical infrastructure and services, and defend vulnerable communities.

President Biden will call upon Congress, our body, to ensure that new jobs create clean energy, and manufacturing and infrastructure are open and accessible to women and people of color. The House is working on this. We have a historic package to build back better, creating jobs and justice.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank our men and women in uniform and remember those who gave their life for this country.

The month of May is recognized as Military Appreciation Month, and we have several days dedicated to honoring our servicemen and -women, as well as their families.

May 7 is Military Spouse Appreciation Day. May 8 is Victory in Europe Day, marking the end of World War II in Europe. May 15 is Armed Services Day, where we thank Active Duty members from all branches of the military.

□ 1130

But on the last day of May, we have our most solemn occasion, Memorial Day, where we mourn those whom we lost in defense of this Nation.

The tradition of Memorial Day dates back to 1864 in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania. Three ladies decorated the graves of fallen Civil War soldiers, and the custom has continued every year since then. Boalsburg still puts on a traditional Memorial Day celebration, complete with a parade, a community walk to the cemetery, speeches, military reenactments, and much more.

In the days leading up to Memorial Day, many place flags or lay wreaths at the graves of our soldiers. We gather with friends and family to attend parades and special services to remember those lost.

As we take the time to thank our Active Duty members and remember the fallen, we must also never forget the soldiers who have not returned home.

As the father of a wounded warrior, I thank God every day he returned home safely. Not every family has been as lucky, and we owe our greatest efforts to recovering the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Currently, there are more than 80,000 American servicemembers who remain unaccounted for, from World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Cold War, and the gulf wars. We must uphold our promise to our POW/MIA who made the ultimate sacrifice and work to return these members home to their families.

That is why today I am introducing the Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Trade Agreement Resolution. As we develop trade ties in regions where servicemembers once engaged in combat, we must make every effort to guarantee these countries are active participants in aiding in the recovery of our fallen soldiers. While several of these nations have worked to assist in the research and recovery efforts, many challenges still exist.

This resolution ensures that as we enter mutually beneficial trade agreements, our trade partners will commit to the research and recovery efforts of our Nation's missing servicemembers.

In addition, it also sends a message to the families of those who are still waiting for their loved ones to return home. The United States will uphold the eternal promise to our Armed Forces to always bring our men and women home.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, especially in advance of Memorial Day weekend. As Memorial Day approaches and we make plans to see family and friends and to attend services and parades, let us remember that our freedom is not free and we owe thanks to those who died in sacrifice.

May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BUSTOS) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, abide with us in our walk this day.

When the path isn't clear, grant us the gift of Your discernment.

When we stumble over our own pride, pick us up and strengthen us with humility.

Should we be caught in the web of deceit, free us by Your truth.

When temptation lures us off course, hold us accountable to the direction You intend for us.

If along the way we should be injured by another in word or deed, fill our hearts and minds with forgiveness.

When we are detoured by demands, help us to focus on to Your priorities.

If we are overcome by anger at those who journey with us, may Your kindness temper us that we may in turn be kind.

When words get lost in misunderstanding, give us the gift of gentleness that love would be found in our answers.

As we face danger, grant us courage.

In the search for answers, may we find faith.

And for Your many blessings as You guide us through this day, may we always be thankful.

In Your sovereign name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VALADAO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ALS AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. CROW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the importance of ALS Awareness Month and continued Federal support of funding towards a cure for ALS.

ALS is a progressive nervous system disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, causing loss of muscle control.

This devastating disease can affect anyone, anywhere, at any age, and, still today, is always fatal.

Veterans are twice as likely to develop ALS, which is why ALS has been designated a service-connected disease.

Not only is there no cure for ALS, but there is also no effective treatment to halt or reverse the progression of the disease.

Patients typically live 2 to 5 years after diagnosis.

President Biden announced an initiative to leverage a \$50 billion investment over the course of his presidency through a new HHS program, called ARPA-Health.

This investment would bring focus, scale, and innovation to combat devastating diseases like ALS, Alzheimer's, diabetes, and cancer.

Madam Speaker, the need is urgent, and I would encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting these investments. Our response must meet the moment.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT DAN McBRIDE

(Ms. HERRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, in 1942, Dan McBride enlisted as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army. Sergeant Dan McBride is an American hero from New Mexico.

Assigned to Fox Company, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne, Dan's job was a new modernization in military tactics. Paratroopers jumped out of perfectly good airplanes to parachute behind enemy lines.

On June 6, 1944, Dan jumped into Normandy on D-day as part of Operation Overlord. There he earned his first Purple Heart.

On September 17, 1944, Dan jumped into Holland as part of Operation Market Garden. There he earned his second Purple Heart.

In December of 1944, Dan and the 101st Airborne made their way to Bastogne, Belgium, where they held off a desperate push by the Germans in temperatures well below zero, with no winter clothes. The Battle of the Bulge is where Dan earned his third Purple Heart.

His actions did not go overlooked. Amongst the multitude of medals he was awarded, Dan and his fellow paratroopers, Dick Kline and James Martin, were featured in the book "Three of the Last Screaming Eagles."

That book has now been made into a documentary film called "A Rendezvous with Destiny," which premieres on May 29 in Columbus, Ohio, at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.

We owe so much to our World War II veterans, of whom we have fewer every day. I am so proud of Sergeant McBride. I can't think of a better way to honor his legacy than by immortalizing his story on film.

REBUILDING WITH THE AMERICAN JOBS AND FAMILIES PLAN

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the transformation that the American Rescue Plan has made in all of our communities.